

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EA-10 IO-13 OIC-02 AID-05 AF-10 EB-08
/124 W

-----118165 211311Z /50

R 201516Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5333
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06179

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CENTO
SUBJECT: CENTO MINISTERIAL

SUMMARY: TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CENTO COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MET IN LONDON APR 19-20. ALL FOREIGN
MINISTERS WERE PRESENT FOR OPENING AND "RESTRICTED"
SESSIONS. CONFERENCE AGENDA WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE
PARTS, THE OPENING PUBLIC SESSION, THE RESTRICTED SESSION
(SEPTTEL), AND CENTO SECRETARIAT REPORTS INCLUDING THAT
OF RECENTLY APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE PUBLIC SESSION EACH FOREIGN MINISTER READ FROM
PREPARED TEXTS. THESE REMARKS WERE ESSENTIALLY A TOUR
D'HORIZON BUT ALL COUNTRIES PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE
MIDDLE EAST AND THE HORN OF AFRICA. IRAN IN PARTICULAR
STRESSED ITS "GRAVE CONCERN" OVER THE SITUATION IN THE
HORN POINTING OUT THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA ILLUSTRATE
"HOW QUICKLY PEACE IN OUR REGION CAN BE DISRUPTED BY
INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE." IRANIAN FORNMIN KHALATBARY
NOTED THAT IT WAS TO GUARD AGAINST SUCH OUTSIDE INTER-
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REFERENCE THAT IRAN "EMPHASIZED THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF
PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE INDIAN
OCEAN SHOULD BE THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LITTORAL
STATES AND THAT THESE AREAS SHOULD REMAIN FREE FROM
GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND MILITARY ESCALATION."

2. PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER AGHA SHAHI REVIEWED IN

DETAIL WHAT HE PRESENTED AS PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS. HE DWELLED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" PAKISTAN HAD WITH IRAN, STATED THAT THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH TO ISLAMABAD WAS THE "CULMINATION OF RECONCILIATION," THAT THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN WAS THE FIRST IN TWELVE YEARS AND THAT GENERAL ZIA'S TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN WAS A "SUBSTANTIAL FORWARD STEP."

3. TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN DESCRIBED THE BASIS OF TURKEY'S ATTEMPT TO RATIONALIZE RELATIONS WITH GREECE AS AN EFFORT AT "ELIMINATING THE ELEMENT OF MISTRUST" AND CHARACTERIZED ECEVIT'S INITIATIVE AT MONTREUX AS A "WORTHWHILE" CONSEQUENCE OF TURKISH POLICY. OKCUN STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHES THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO A CYPRUS SOLUTION AND THAT BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE WOULD BE NEGLECTING THEIR MORAL AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN CYPRUS IF THEY DID NOT PROVIDE THE "NECESSARY POLITICAL ENCOURAGEMENT" TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND.

4. WITH RESPECT TO U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS, OKCUN SAID THAT THE GOT WAS HOPING THAT U.S.-TURKISH COOPERATION WILL BE "REVITALIZED" AFTER THE U.S. CONGRESS LIFTS THE ARMS EMBARGO. DEPARTING FROM HIS PREPARED TEXT, OKCUN
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WENT ON TO SAY THAT TURKEY IS "STILL IN A VERY CAUTIOUS, WAIT-AND-SEE MOOD." FINALLY, THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER MADE A STRONG CALL FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITHIN CENTO.

5. IN HIS REMARKS DR. OWEN MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE "RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE ATTITUDE" OF IRAN WITH RESPECT TO A "WHOLE WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL STABILITY" INCLUDING OIL PRICING. HE STATED THAT UK-PAKISTANI RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED "IMMEASURABLY" SINCE LAST YEAR. ADDRESSING THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, OWEN SAID THAT THE GOOD OFFICES OF GREECE AND TURKEY WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN CYPRUS AND THAT THE UK IS READY TO "PLAY ITS FULL PART."

6. SECRETARY VANCE'S COMMENTS ARE BEING CARRIED IN THE WIRELESS FILE.

7. CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL GURUN BEGAN THE CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS DEVOTED TO APPROVING COMMITTEE REPORTS BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

ESSENTIAL FOR MILITARY PLANNING. GURUN NOTED THAT DIS-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06179

CUSSIONS ON DEFINING THE THREAT TO THE CENTO COUNTRIES
(DIRECT SOVIET AGGRESSION VERSUS THE DESIRE OF REGIONAL
MEMBERS TO INCLUDE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION THROUGH PROXY
STATES) WAS STILL STALLED AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS OF
DISCUSSION. THE SECRETARY GENERAL INDICATED THAT HE
ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES IN VIEWING
THE NATURE OF THE THREAT TO THE REGION TO BE MORE COMPLEX
THAN THAT WHICH IS DEFINED IN THE CENTO TREATY.

8. THE SECOND MAJOR POINT GURUN MADE WAS TO CALL FOR
INCREASED CENTO INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMATION OF FIXED
CAPITAL ASSETS. GURUN'S PROPOSALS WOULD REVERSE THE
RECENT CENTO EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH PRO-
JECTS. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF PROJECT HE ENVI-
SIONED, THE SECRETARY GENERAL NOTED THAT SOME OF THE
REGIONAL COUNTRIES WERE CONSIDERING SATELLITE COMMUNICA-
TION PROJECTS AND THAT A JOINT SATELLITE PROGRAM THAT
MELDED TOGETHER INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL PROGRAMS COULD BE
MADE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CENTO. THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES
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APPLAUDED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROPOSALS. THE UK NOTED THAT CENOT'S ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO INDUSTRIAL "CAPITAL FORMATION" WAS NECESSARILY LIMITED.

9. ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS WERE ADOPTED ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN INSISTED THAT PROPOSALS IN THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WITH NATO BE DENIED. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE IN THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES.

10. THE MINISTERS ACCEPTED THE U.S. INVITATION TO HOLD THE NEXT COUNCIL SESSION DURING 18-19 APR 1979 IN WASHINGTON, DC.

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